

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, D.C. 20515**

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**WAXMAN AND LANTOS TAKE ACTION AGAINST  
ANTI-ISRAEL MEETING IN GENEVA**

WASHINGTON, DC – Congressmen Henry A. Waxman and Tom Lantos yesterday sent letters, signed by 30 Members of Congress, to U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan and Swiss President Moritz Leuenberger protesting the upcoming meeting of the High Contracting Parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention, which will convene in Switzerland on December 5, 2001 to discuss alleged Israeli violations against Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza.

"It is unconscionable that the United Nations and the Europeans would even consider holding such a forum, especially at a time when innocent Israeli civilians are being massacred on the streets of Jerusalem," Representative Waxman.

Representative Lantos added, "I am outraged that the Swiss government would host this theater of the absurd and permit the Organization of the Islamic Conference to hijack yet another critical international human rights mechanism to launch a hateful attack against Israel."

The Fourth Geneva Convention was adopted in response to the Nazi atrocities committed during the Holocaust. In over 50 years, the High Contracting Parties have never convened to discuss the compliance of any one nation, even to address the human rights abuses in Bosnia, Kosova, Rwanda, and Tibet.

The letters strenuously object to the meeting's biased agenda, and call upon Secretary General Annan and President Leuenberger to intervene against this unprecedented degradation of a vital tool to the international community.

Representative Waxman said, "The United Nations and the Swiss should not be facilitating yet another attempt by the Arab and Islamic states to isolate and condemn Israel. If they want to play a constructive role in ending the violence they should stand up to condemn terrorism."

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